

# Electricity

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## Circuits and Laws

### Kirchhoff's laws

## The Electromotive Force - EMF

EMF - in Series and Parallel

Circuits - Resistors and Capacitors

Ammeters - Voltmeters - Potentiometers

The Wheatstone Bridge and Transducers

# Kirchhoff's laws

- ▶ - to analyze complex circuits it is not enough to apply the series - parallel techniques and so on;
- ▶ - but there are special rules that can be applied and help analyze any circuit;
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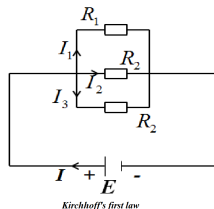
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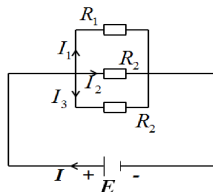
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- ▶ - Kirchhoff's first law is the result of the conservation of charge
- ▶ - and states that at any junction point, the sum of all currents entering the junction, must equal the sum of all currents leaving the junction;
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- ▶ - Kirchhoff's second law or loop rule
- ▶ is based on the conservation of energy and states that
- ▶ - the net electromotive force around a closed circuit loop is equal to the sum of potential drops around the loop;
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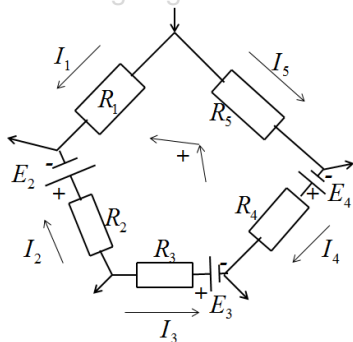
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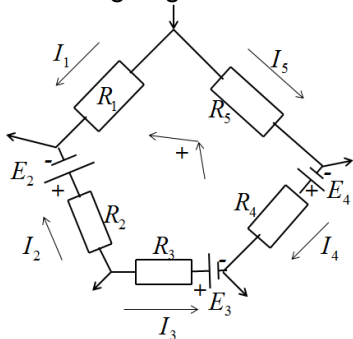
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### EMF - in Series and Parallel

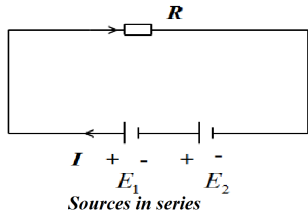
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# EMF in Series

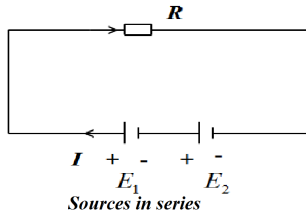
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- ▶ - the total voltage is the algebraic sum of their voltages
- ▶ - if the batteries are arranged as in the figure
- ▶ - then:  $E = E_1 + E_2$ ;





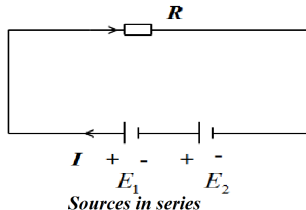
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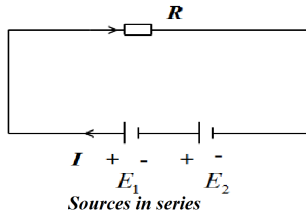
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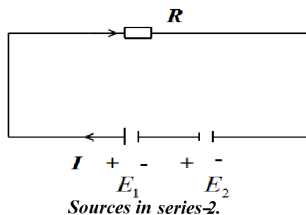






# EMF in Series

- ▶ - but if the batteries are connected as in this second fig.
- ▶ - then the total voltage will equal the difference
- ▶ of their voltages, that is, if  $E_1$  is bigger than  $E_2$ , then:  $E = E_1 - E_2$ ;



# EMF in Series

- ▶ - why would we connect batteries in such a way?
- ▶ - because such a reverse arrangement is precisely how a battery charger works;
- ▶ - because of the greater voltage electrons are being forced into its negative terminal
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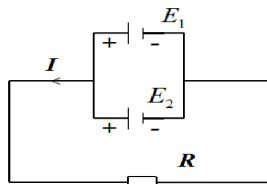
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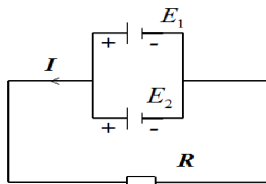
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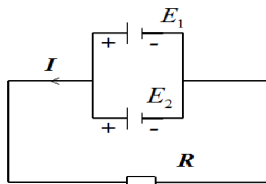
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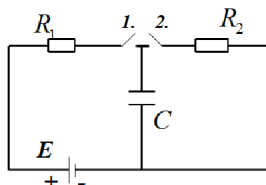
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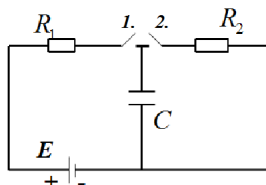
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- ▶ - it is called *RC circuit*;
- ▶ - if we close switch 1.) only, current flows through the left part of the circuit;



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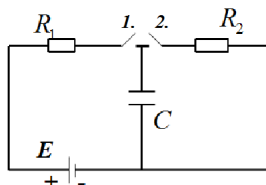
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- ▶ - electrons of the negative terminal of the battery will accumulate on the plate of the capacitor;
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- ▶ - until the voltage across the capacitor equals the *emf* of the battery;
- ▶ - from the conservation of energy, or Kirchhoff's loop rule results:  $E = IR + \frac{Q}{C}$ ;
- ▶ - resistance  $R$  includes the internal resistance of the battery too;
- ▶ - and  $Q$  is the the charge accumulated on the capacitor
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- ▶ - before we would reach this, both the intensity of the current flowing in the circuit
- ▶ - and the value of  $I$  and  $Q$  are functions of time;
- ▶  $I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$  and
$$E = R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{Q}{C};$$
- ▶ - the solution is given by:
$$Q = CE(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}});$$
- ▶ - as can be seen, the charge  $Q$  increases from  $Q = 0$  at  $t = 0$  to the maximum value:  $Q = CE$ ;

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- ▶ - this means that at  $t = 0$  the current is  $I = \frac{E}{R}$ ,
- ▶ - as expected for a circuit which contains a resistor  $R$  only;
- ▶ - then the current drops exponentially in time with a time constant  $RC$ ;
- ▶ - which represents the time required for the current to drop to  $\frac{1}{e}$  which is approximately 0.37 of its initial value;



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- ▶ - if we close switch 1 and open switch 2,
- ▶ - charge begins to flow through the resistance  $R_2$
- ▶ - from one plate of the capacitor toward the other one,
- ▶ - until the capacitor is fully discharged;
- ▶ - from the conservation of energy we have:

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$$I = I_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}};$$

# Resistors and Capacitors

- ▶ - or

$$\frac{dQ}{Q} = -\frac{dt}{RC};$$

- ▶ - from where we get:  $Q = Q_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$ ;
- ▶ - where  $Q_0$  is the total charge accumulated on the capacitor at the initial moment we closed switch 2;
- ▶ - so the charge on the capacitor decreases exponentially in time with the same time constant  $RC$ ;
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## Circuits and Laws

### Kirchhoff's laws

## The Electromotive Force - EMF

EMF - in Series and Parallel

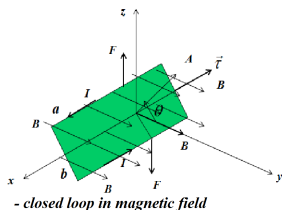
Circuits - Resistors and Capacitors

**Ammeters - Voltmeters - Potentiometers**

The Wheatstone Bridge and Transducers

# Ammeters

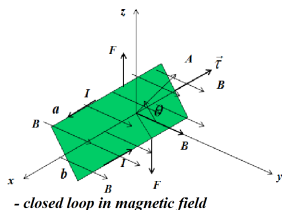
- ▶ - an ammeter is used to measure current;
- ▶ - the crucial part is a galvanometer which works on the principle of the force between a magnetic field
- ▶ - and a current-carrying coil of wire;





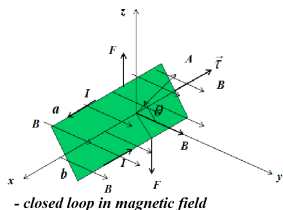
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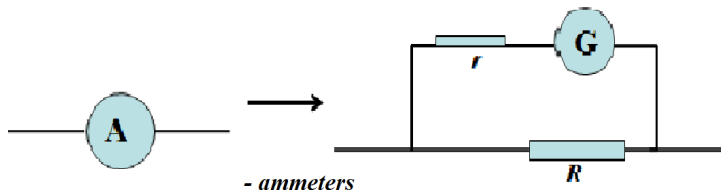
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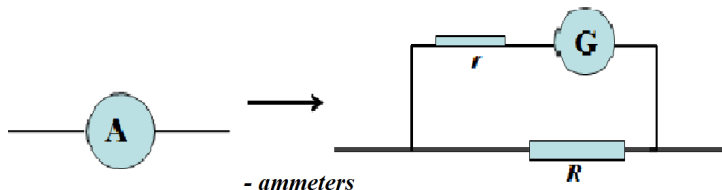
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- ▶ - an ammeter is a galvanometer in parallel with a small (shunt) resistor  $R$ ;
- ▶ - where  $r$  is the internal resistance of the galvanometer;



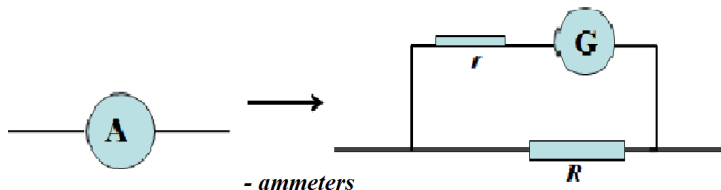
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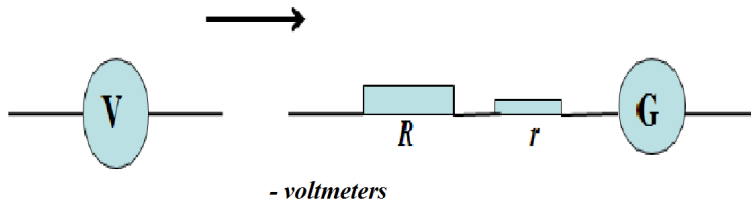
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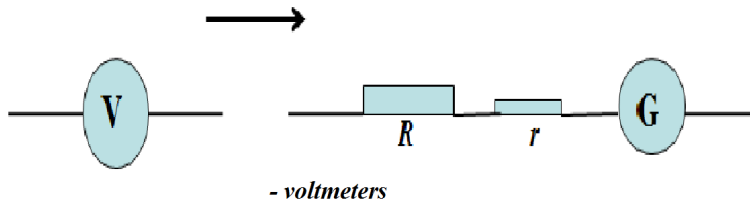
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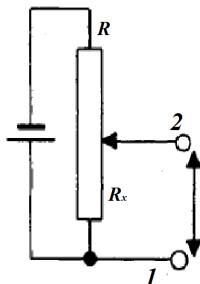






# Potentiometers

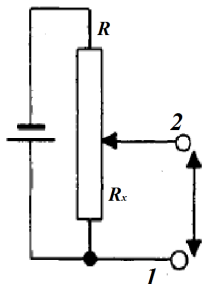
- ▶ - a potentiometer is a device that measures potential differences;
- ▶ - it has a sliding or rotating contact, called wiper,
- ▶ - that forms an adjustable voltage divider producing a variable voltage output signal which is proportional to the physical position of the wiper;



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- ▶ - measuring by a potentiometer has the advantage that we can measure a voltage without drawing current;
- ▶ - the resistor is a variable one, and could be a uniform wire for ex., with a sliding contact that can be moved along it;
- ▶ - variable resistors are generally associated with some form of control,
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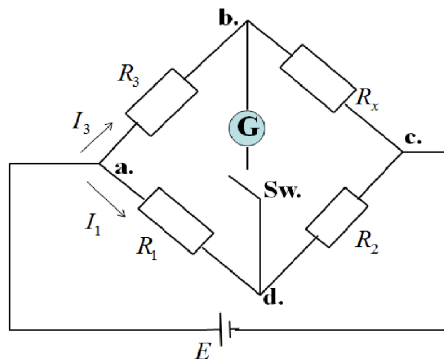
Circuits - Resistors and Capacitors

Ammeters - Voltmeters - Potentiometers

**The Wheatstone Bridge and Transducers**

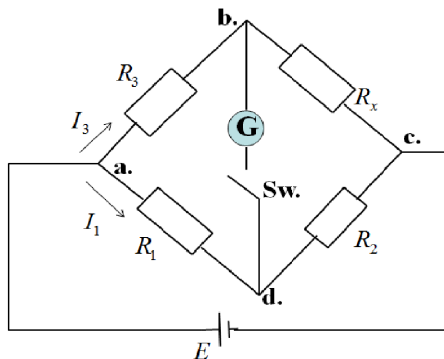
# The Wheatstone Bridge

- ▶ - the Wheatstone bridge can be used to make precise measurements of resistance;
- ▶ - the resistances  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  have to be known, and
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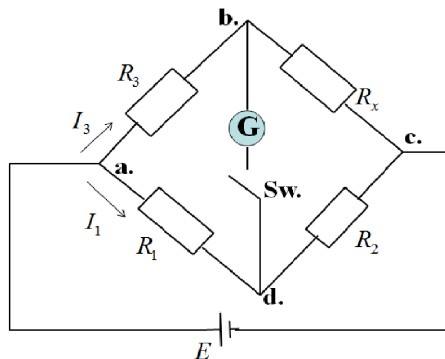
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- ▶ - how can we measure the unknown resistance  $R_x$ :
- ▶ - the variable resistance of the resistor  $R_3$  is adjusted until the the potential difference between points  $b$ . and  $d$ . is zero;
- ▶ - this can be determined by momentarily closing switch  $Sw.$ ;
- ▶ - if the galvanometer does not deflect, that is the two points are at the same potential, then  $I_3 R_3 = I_1 R_1$ ;
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- ▶ - for ex. a loudspeaker transforms electric energy into sound energy;
- ▶ - or a microphone changes sound into an electrical signal;
- ▶ - or they are changing one kind of signal into another kind
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